



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Office of the National President

April 25, 2019

Mr. Dan Elwell
FAA Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

On October 3, 2018, Congress passed the bipartisan FAA Reauthorization Bill. This legislation included many provisions and changes that affect the work that we as Flight Attendants do every day in keeping the flying public safe in our skies. Despite the clear timelines delineated in the legislation, the FAA has already missed several deadlines for the implementation of the bill. With deadlines approaching for other important provisions of the bill, I, on behalf of the 28,000 members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, respectfully request an update on the FAA's progress in fully implementing the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Bill.

As a reminder, the FAA Reauthorization required that the Flight Attendant minimum rest FAR increase from 8 to 10 hours. With the deadline missed and the government open, I am reminding the FAA that their attention to this must be immediate. Flight Attendants are safety professionals who take care of hundreds of thousands of passengers daily. They deserve to be prepared for long duty days and travelers deserve Flight Attendants who are at their best should the worst occur.

Another matter of safety in the bill is the provision that required updated studies on seat pitch and aircraft evacuation. With the steadily decreasing size of airplane seats, Flight Attendants have serious concerns about how smaller seats affect air rage, passengers' ability to assume the brace position, and safe and timely cabin evacuations. An updated and realistic study on this topic is sorely needed.

The FAA Reauthorization Bill also took several steps to address air quality in aircraft cabins. FAA has been instructed to issue guidance to aviation professionals for reporting incidences of poor cabin air quality such as fumes and smoke. The bill also directs the FAA to convene a commission dedicated to research and reporting on this issue. Some small sample studies have been conducted on this topic, but there has yet to be anything definitive. These actions, while overdue, will help secure vital protections for some of aviation's most important safety workers as well as the passengers that we protect daily.

Mr. Dan Elwell, FAA Acting Administrator
April 25, 2019
Page 2

As a member of the aviation safety community, and as a leader of the world's largest independent Flight Attendant union, I am asking the FAA to update our membership on the progress that has been made in fully implementing this critical piece of legislation. I look forward to hearing from you regarding what steps are being taken to ensure these provisions are implemented in a timely fashion.

If there is any way that I can be of help to expedite any of these important studies and reports, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,



Lori L. Bassani
National President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants